

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 /100 W

-----230929 009118 /22

R 230845Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9503

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK398

UNCLAS GABORONE 0448

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR, PINS, BC, RH

SUBJECT TWO MORE SHOOTING INCIDENTS ON RHODESIAN BORDER

1. GOB ISSUED PRESS RELEASE FEBRUARY 16 REGARDING TWO LATEST SHOOTING INCIDENTS ON BOTSWANA-RHODESIAN BORDER. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: A SPOKESMAN OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ON SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 1977 THERE WERE TWO INCIDENTS IN WHICH RHODESIAN SOLDIERS SHOT AT PEOPLE IN BOTSWANA.

3. QUOTE: THE FIRST INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AT 7.30 A.M. AT SENYAWE VILLAGE IN THE NORTH EAST DISTRICT WHERE RHODESIAN SOLDIERS - TWO WHITES AND ONE BLACK - FIRED TEN SHOTS FROM ACCROSS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE RAMAKGWEBANE RIVER SHOT AT A 16 YEAR OLD BOY WHO WAS REMOVING THATCHING GRASS FROM A HUT WHICH HIS FAMILY HAS HAD TO ABANDON BECAUSE OF HARRASSMENT FROM RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES. ALL THE SHOTS MISSED THE BOY.

4. QUOTE: AS SOON AS THE RHODESIANS STARTED FIRING AT HIM,

THE BOY JUMPED TO THE GROUND AND FLED, LEAVING BEHIND HIS 6 YEAR OLD BROTHER WHO WAS LOOKING AFTER A SPAN OF DONKEYS WHICH THEY WERE USING TO CARRY THE GRASS TO THE NEW HOME THEY ARE BUILDING A FEW MILES AWAY FROM THE BORDER.

5. QUOTE: MEMBERS OF THE POLICE MOBILE UNIT WHO WERE IN THE AREA HEARD THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE AND WENT TO THE SCENE OF THE SHOOTING. ON ARRIVAL THEY SAW THE THREE RHODESIAN SOLDIERS RUNNING AWAY AND TAKING COVER IN AN ABANDONED HOUSE ON THE RHODESIAN SIDE.

6. QUOTE: THE SECOND INCIDENT OCCURRED AT 11.30 A.M. AT DAKWE NEAR NEAR MAITENGWE VILLAGE IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT WHEN TWO GROUPS OF RHODESIAN SOLDIERS CROSSED INTO BOTSWANA AT TWO SEPARATE POINTS AND FIRED AT A SHOP SOME 500 METRES INSIDE BOTSWANA. ONE GROUP HAD TAKEN COVER IN A STREAM AND THE OTHER NEAR A KOPJE. A SECTION OF THE BOTSWANA POLICE MOBILE UNIT WHICH HAD CAMPED NEAR THE SHOP RETURNED FIRE AND THE RHODESIAN INVADERS FLED AND RE-ENTERED RHODESIA. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. UNQUOTE
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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